

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 07898 161023Z
ACTION IO-13

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TAGS: UNWFC, EAGR, OCON
SUBJECT: THIRD SESSION, WORLD FOOD COUNCIL PREPARATORY MEETING,
ROME, MAY 14

1. PREPARATORY MEETING EXTENDED THROUGH MAY 14. FOLLOWING EMERGENCE OF WIDE-RANGING DIFFERENCES OVER BOTH SUBSTANCE AND PROCEDURE (DISCUSSED BELOW), PREPARATORY MEETING DURING EVENING MAY 13 ACCEPTED PROPOSAL OF POLISH DELEGATION TO ACCEPT THE REPORTS OF THE SUGGESTIONS ON THE VARIOUS DRAFT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SUBMISSION FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE COUNCIL. IT WAS UNDERSTOOD THAT THIS PROCEDURE LEFT ALL DELEGATIONS UNCOMMITTED AS TO THE SUBSTANCE AND FORM OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS. THE NARRATIVE SECTION OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING'S REPORT WILL BE PREPARED BY THE RAPORTEURS AND SUBMITTED TO THE MEMBER COUNTRIES ASAP. MEMBER COUNTRIES WILL THEN HAVE UNTIL MAY 22 IN WHICH TO COMMENT ON RAPORTEUR'S TEXT. THE RECOMMENDATIONS ACCEPTED FROM THE SUGGESTIONS FOR TRANSMISSION CONTAIN NUMEROUS BRACKETS REVEALING DISAGREEMENT ON ALMOST ALL ISSUES.

2. THE RESULT OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING CASTS IN DOUBT OUR PREVIOUS THOUGH TENTATIVE DECISION TO BE REPRESENTED AT THE COUNCIL MEETING IN MANILA BY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BERGLAND,
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PAGE 02 ROME 07898 161023Z

UNLESS AN INFORMAL UNDERSTANDING CAN BE REACHED BY THE MEMBER STATES OF THE WFC BEFORE THE MANILA MEETING AS TO THE SUBJECTS TO BE DISCUSSED BY THE MINISTERS, THEY WILL BE CONFRONTED WITH AN AGENDA THAT CONSISTS OF THE SEVEN DETAILED AND WELL BRACKETED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE. IN EFFECT, THEY WOULD FACE A REPEAT OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING WITH ITS MANY DIVISIVE ELEMENTS AND LACK OF FOCUS, AND

IMPAIR U.S. EFFORTS TO UTILIZE THE MANILA COUNCIL SESSION TO FOCUS INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION ON THE NEED TO COME MORE EFFECTIVELY TO GRIPS WITH THE PROBLEM OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION.

3. FROM THE BEGINNING OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE THE U.S. DELEGATION ACTIVELY SOUGHT TO AVERT THIS CONCLUSION. OUR SUBSTANTIVE POSITION ON THE VARIOUS ISSUES WAS CONSISTENTLY MORE FORTHCOMING TO THE G-77 THAN WERE THE POSITIONS OF THE SOVIET BLOC AND THE OTHER DC'S. THE G-77 WAS EXPLICITLY TOLD BOTH ON THE FLOOR AND IN CORRIDOR CONVERSATIONS OF OUR WILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE ON POSITIONS IN THE INTEREST OF A SUCCESSFUL MANILA MEETING. WE HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THIS MESSAGE WAS RECEIVED AND ACCEPTED. (THE MANY BRACKETS REFERRED TO ABOVE WERE INSERTED LARGELY BY THE EEC, THE JAPANESE AND THE BLOC). NEVERTHELESS THEY COULD NOT OVERCOME THE RIGIDITIES OF THEIR ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE AND SMALLNESS OF VIEW. IN ADDITION, THE PERSONALITY OF G-77 SPOKESMAN INTERPOSED ITSELF IN A DECIDEDLY NEGATIVE FASHION.

4. THE FINAL EVOLUTION OF THE MEETING BEGAN ON 5/13 WHEN IT BECAME APPARENT G-77 WOULD OPPOSE PRESENTING THE MINISTERIAL SESSION WITH A FOCUSED SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION CONCENTRATING ON THE THEME OF THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION. THE US DELEGATION HAD TAKEN THE LEAD SINCE MID-WEEK IN URGING THAT THE PREPARATORY MEETING ADOPT SUCH A FOCUSED SUMMARY USING AS A MODEL THE SECRETARIAT'S PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION 6-A. ALL DC'S STRONGLY AND ORALLY SUPPORTED US. G-77, HOWEVER, WAS UNABLE TO PRIORITIZE ITS JOINT POSITION AND, ACCORDINGLY, DEMANDED THAT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ROME 07898 161023Z

ALL OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PREPARATORY MEETING BE SENT FORWARD TO THE COUNCIL. THEIR PRIVATELY STATED FEAR WAS THAT THE COURSE PREFERRED BY THE DC'S WOULD RELEGATE TO SECOND CLASS STATUS CERTAIN PET RECOMMENDATIONS. IN ORDER TO ACCOMMODATE THIS CONCERN THE US DELEGATION FORMALLY PROPOSED A REPORT FORMAT WHICH WOULD BOTH SEND FORWARD ALL OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE COUNCIL (LEAVING UNCLEAR THE ACTION TO BE TAKEN) AND URGE THE COUNCIL TO CONCENTRATE ITS ATTENTION ON A SEPARATE SUMMARY RECOMMENDATION IN WHICH THE VARIOUS TOPICS CONSIDERED BY THE PREPARATORY MEETING ARE DEALT WITH FROM THE VIEWPOINT OF THEIR IMPACT ON THE ERADICATION OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION. THE JAPANESE DELEGATION STRONGLY SUPPORTED US DECLARING THAT UNLESS SUCH A FOCUS WAS ACHIEVED, THEY WOULD NOT SEND A MINISTER. SUPPORT WAS GIVEN BY MOST OF THE OTHER DC'S BUT THE G-77 REFUSED THE COMPROMISE. THE U.S. DELEGATE IN THE FACE OF SUCH OPPOSITION ANNOUNCED WILLINGNESS TO WORK WITH THE OTHER DELEGATES TO CONCLUDE REVIEW OF THE OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS. HE THEN DECLARED THAT THE DECISION OF THE G-77 TO CONFRONT THE MINISTERIAL SESSION WITH SIX LENGTHY AND FREQUENTLY BRACKETED RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD CAUSE THE USG TO RECONSIDER

ITS DECISION TO HAVE CABINET RANK PARTICIPATION AT THE SESSION. HE EXPLAINED THAT IT WAS THE VIEW OF THE USG THAT IT WOULD BE A MISUSE OF MINISTERIAL TIME AND TALENT TO PARTICIPATE IN DEBATE ON WIDE RANGING AND UNFOCUSED AND LARGELY UNRESOLVED RECOMMENDATIONS.

5. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE MEETING THE US DELEGATE SPOKE IN BROAD TERMS ABOUT THE COURSE OF THE MEETING AND THE LIKELY DEVELOPMENT OF EVENTS. NOTING THE STRONG DESIRE OF THE US TO FOCUS ATTENTION ON THE ISSUE OF HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION, HE EXPRESSED REGRET THAT THE MEETING HAD DEGENERATED INTO STILL ANOTHER CONFRONTATION OF BLOCS (BETWEEN G-77 AND THE REST). THE INABILITY OF THE MEETING TO PREPARE A FOCUSED CONCLUION, HE ADDED, WAS ESPECIALLY TO BE REGRETTED. WITHOUT SUCH A FOCUS, IT WILL BE DIFFICULT TO ACHIEVE THE RESULTS ALL SEEK FOR THE MANILA MEETING. IN BRIEF, HE CONCLUDED THE VARIED RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE ARE NOT "MINISTERIAL". FROM THIS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 ROME 07898 161023Z

CONCLUSION THE US DELEGATE PASSED TO A REAFFIRMATION OF THE DETERMINATION OF THE USG TO CONTINUE ITS EFFORTS TO ESTABLISH A NEW AND MORE COOPERATIVE PATTERN OF RELATIONS WITH ALL NATIONS, BUT WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. HE STRESSED THAT THE USG WOULD CONTINUE TO LEAD IN EFFORTS TO ERADICATE HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION.GARDNER

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